

Name: **Sand Creek WY-030-27N79W10-2012**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No ☐ X ☒ Yes ☐ _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: N/A _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _ N/A _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): __ N/A

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Sand Creek WY-030-27N79W10-2012** Acreage 10,624.60

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒X_____ No _____

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the north by BLM Road 3144 a.k.a. Antelope Rd. The unit is bound on the southwest by BLM Road 3137 a.k.a. Many Draws Rd. The unit is bound on the east by Sand Creek Rd. The unit is bound on the north by private land as well as the junction of the two roads mentioned above. The unit is bound on the south by Wyoming State Highway 487 where it junctions with Many Draws Rd.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Sand Creek area under consideration is 10,624.60 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t26n	r79w	13	t27n	r79w	16
t26n	r79w	11	t27n	r79w	17
t26n	r79w	12	t27n	r79w	18
t26n	r79w	1	t27n	r79w	11
t26n	r79w	2	t27n	r79w	8
t27n	r79w	36	t27n	r79w	9
t27n	r79w	35	t27n	r79w	10
t27n	r79w	34	t27n	r80w	12
t27n	r79w	26	t27n	r79w	7
t27n	r79w	28	t27n	r79w	2
t27n	r79w	27	t27n	r79w	3
t27n	r79w	23	t27n	r79w	4
t27n	r79w	22	t27n	r79w	5
t27n	r79w	21	t27n	r80w	2
t27n	r79w	14	t27n	r80w	1
t27n	r79w	15	t27n	r79w	6

The topography consists, primarily, of the Sand Creek and foothills of the Shirley Mountains. Elevation ranges from 7,200 feet on the ridges and hills above the drainages to, approximately, 6,900 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover in the unit consists of Mountain Big Sagebrush along the hills and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is recreational hunting, camping, and OHV riding.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 21.91 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads are demonstrated in photos 2-3, 6 and 12-13. When hiking across the Sand Creek Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The Sand Creek Unit also contains seven man-made reservoirs (see locations in unit map and example in photo 5). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at any of the seven reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" has been contaminated by cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including the seven reservoirs, two water wells, and 7.68 miles of fence, were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Sand Creek Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural

conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturallness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturallness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Sand Creek WY-030-27N79W10-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

__X__ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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Team members:

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